

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

October 11, 2011

The white cane, or guide dog, which every blind citizen of our County has the right to use, demonstrates and symbolizes their ability to work productively in competitive employment. By allowing every blind person to move freely and safely from place to place, makes it possible for them to participate fully in and contribute to our society.

Motorists should be aware that the law requires that blind pedestrians carrying a white cane or using a guide dog shall be given the right-of-way. Also, California law calls upon employers, both public and private, to be aware of and utilize the employment skills of blind citizens by recognizing their worth as individuals and their productive capacities as employees.

Through the public education and outreach efforts of the Blind Start of America (BLINDSTART), citizens of this County can look forward to a continued expansion of employment opportunities for and greater acceptance of blind persons in the competitive labor market.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors proclaim October 15, 2011, as "White Cane Safety Day" in Los Angeles County, for the purpose of bringing a greater understanding of blindness and what it means to be blind, and call upon our schools to offer full opportunities for training to blind persons; public and private employers to utilize the available skills of competent blind persons and to open new opportunities for the blind in our rapidly changing society; and all citizens to recognize the white cane and guide dog as instruments of safety and self-help for blind pedestrians on our streets and highways.

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MOTION

MOLINA _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

YAROSLAVSKY _____

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